

Talking Points for the DCI
(10 January 1984)

14

LEBANON: Status of the Security Plan

Later this week, the Lebanese, Syrian, and Saudi Foreign Ministers will resume discussions aimed at settling the remaining disagreements over the plan. It is possible that they will arrive at a formula that will satisfy everyone. [redacted]

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If the plan is implemented, it will buy time but not ensure progress toward overall reconciliation between the warring factions.

- This plan only has the limited objective of stabilizing the cease-fire in some of the confrontation areas. It does not deal with a solution for the Shuf region or the stalemate between the Druze and the Lebanese Army on the Alayh ridgeline, where sporadic violence is likely to continue.
- Moreover, it does not address the two fundamental issues of national reconciliation--the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and Druze/Muslim demands for political reforms. [redacted]

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The key elements of the security plan--so far as we can determine with only limited access to NODIS cables--involve developments in three areas: the coastal region south of Beirut (the Kharrub), the mountains in the southern Alayh and northern Shuf districts, and the southern suburbs of Beirut.

In the Kharrub:

- The Lebanese Army deploys along the coastal road and into positions in the heights above it as far south as the Awwali River.
- Some 200 Internal Security Force (ISF) personnel deploy to selected villages in the area between the Damur and Awwali Rivers, and the Christian Lebanese Forces militia withdraws via Al Jiyah by boat to Juniyah north of Beirut. While the Army commences road patrols as far as Ayn Al Hawr, Druze forces withdraw to the east. [redacted]

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[REDACTED]

In the southern Alayh and northern Shuf districts:

- All Lebanese Forces militia personnel withdraw to the Mashraf barracks for about 24 days and then pull back to Christian areas north of Beirut. The ISF deploys to selected villages and establish a checkpoint along the contested Qabr Shamun Road. [REDACTED]

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In southern Beirut:

- The LAF redeploys and the southern suburbs are the primary responsibility of a policing force of about 1,000 ISF personnel who will establish a checkpoint at a key point on the infiltration route into the southern suburbs. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] yesterday that he objects to the security plan because it places the Army in a poor position militarily.

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- The plan would spread his forces thinly along the coastal highway and place the ISF, which Tannous considers extremely inept, in key positions.
- Tannous believes that the Army's priority must be to close the gap in the Alayh ridgeline, thereby cutting the infiltration route into the southern suburbs. He stated that by 20 January, he will have four tank battalions ready to conduct such an operation. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Talking Points for the DCI

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DDI/NESA/AI/L, [REDACTED] (10Jan84)

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